

Welcome, Apologies, and Declarations of Interest

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies. No declarations of interest were made.

Minutes of the previous Board meeting 28 March 2019

The minutes of the Board meeting held on 28 May 2019 were approved.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Report

The Board were informed that the name of the Executive Team had been change to the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and would be focusing on four main issues:

1. Governance
2. Operational Planning
3. People and Communications
4. Accommodation.

The current office move was now to be at an 8:10 desk ratio for both staff and call centre.

The Acting CEO reported that she and the Executive Leadership Team would consider an improved style for the CEO report for the September meeting and that the Dashboard and Finance Reports would also be considered for a refresh.

The Board asked about the levels of job vacancies and requested a statement detailing on the new levels of staffing compared to previous levels before the establishment of Money and Pensions Service (MaPS).

Pensions Dashboard

The Pensions Dashboard paper was noted, and the Board agreed that pension guidance numbers should be split between direct and indirect delivery.

Corporate Spending Review

Corporate Spending Review slides previously circulated were presented, and options were discussed in detail. The Board agreed amendments to the slides.

Breathing Space scheme

It was reported to the Board that the Breathing Space scheme had been confirmed with the other parties. The scheme consisted of three elements:

1. A breathing space for those in problem debt, providing them with legal protections from interest, fees, and most enforcement for up to 60 days.
2. A similar breathing space available to those in a severe mental health crisis that would not be time bound.
3. A statutory debt repayment plan solution which enabled a person to repay their debts over a longer time period of up to ten years.

The Board approved the role of MaPS in the scheme through partnership working with the scheme's administrator, the Insolvency Service. The Executive would work with the Insolvency Service to ensure maximum flexibility on how MaPS administered the breathing space.

The Board approved the draft response included in the paper for submission to HM Treasury.

Pay Remit

The paper circulated related to the pay year 2019/20, and a paper would be presented to the Board with options for 2020 and beyond. The Board approved of the proposal for the pay increase for 2019 and asked if the pay could be targeted where possible and noted that it would need to be approved by Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and negotiated with the Treasury.

Board External Advisory Structure

The Chair explained that the proposal was to have three main advisory groups and one formal sub-committee. The two advisory groups would deal with children and young people up to age 24, and the other one with adults. The formal Board sub-committee would deal with the Devolved Administrations (Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland).

The Board approved the new advisory groups and Board sub-committee structure. The draft Terms of reference to be submitted to the Board in September and the first Devolved Administrations sub-committee would take place in October 2019.

Pensions Dashboard Update

The Board was updated on the Pensions Dashboard programme and the Executive confirmed that they were seeking further assurance from DWP on its approval process. The Finance Committee had approved the building of the Content Management System (CMS).

Ratification of the appointment of a director for the Money Advice Service (MAS) and The Pensions Advisory Service (TPAS)

The decision to appoint the Acting CEO as a director for MAS and TPAS was approved unanimously.

CEO Objectives

The Board were informed that new objectives had been agreed for the CEO following their previous discussion.

Board Induction

It was agreed that two Non-Executive Directors would be responsible for the provision of an induction programme for the Non-Executive Directors and a paper would be brought to the Board in due course.

Quarterly Accountability Report (QAR)

The Board noted the QAR.

Forward Plan

The Board noted the Forward Plan.